

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 792

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Garth Brooks upon his thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, Garth Brooks, the reigning Country Music Association (CMA) Entertainer of the Year, will celebrate his thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry later this year; and

WHEREAS, born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on February 7, 1962, Mr. Brooks grew up in Yukon, Oklahoma, as the youngest of six children; he first moved to Nashville in 1985 but returned home a mere twenty-three hours later; and

WHEREAS, Garth Brooks completed his degree in advertising at Oklahoma State University before returning to Nashville in 1987, and within six months, he had signed a recording contract with Capitol Records; and

WHEREAS, he released his eponymous debut album in 1989, and his first single, "Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old)" hit number eight on the charts; "Not Counting On You" was another top-ten single, and "If Tomorrow Never Comes" and "The Dance" made it to the top of the charts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks made his Opry debut on June 24, 1989, and was inducted as a member of the show's cast by Johnny Russell on October 6, 1990; he calls that night one of the proudest moments of his unparalleled career; and

WHEREAS, Garth Brooks has sold more than 148 million records, with seven albums each exceeding sales of ten million units; he is second only to The Beatles as the best-selling act of all time, according to the Recording Industry Association of America; and

WHEREAS, Garth Brooks has received innumerable awards and accolades throughout his career; he has been named the CMA Entertainer of the Year a record-setting seven times, and he has won two Grammy Awards and twenty-four Billboard Music Awards; and

WHEREAS, he has been inducted into the International Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Musicians Hall of Fame, and he was named iHeartRadio's inaugural Artist of the Decade in 2019; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, Mr. Brooks has appeared in eight NBC specials, hosted *Saturday Night Live* twice, and served as executive producer of the made-for-television movie *Call Me Claus*; he has also earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, although Garth Brooks announced his retirement from touring and recording in October 2000, he still appeared on the Opry stage in 2005 as part of the Grand Ole Opry's eightieth anniversary celebration, singing with Porter Wagoner, Bill Anderson, Jimmy Dickens, and Steve Wariner, and when he came out of retirement in 2009, he made his announcement from the stage of the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, he began the children's charity Teammates for Kids, a foundation that works with professional athletes to generate funds for children's charities, including those focused on children's health and education; he and his wife have also supported Habitat for Humanity and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project, and Teammates for Kids provided more than \$1 million to fund the construction of 215 Habitat for Humanity homes in Thailand following the 2004 Asian tsunami; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks has also lent his time and talents to perform concerts to benefit areas devastated by natural disasters, including the California wildfires in 2007, the Nashville flood in 2010, and the Oklahoma tornadoes in 2013; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Garth Brooks is grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife and fellow Opry member, Trisha Yearwood, and his daughters, Taylor, August, and Allie; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music artist to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that Garth Brooks be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Garth Brooks upon his thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, commend his illustrious career in country music, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.